

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Mansfield and District U3A Newsletter



Established 1999

November 2011

Website: www.mansfield-u3a.org.uk

Noticeboard: <http://mansfieldu3a.blogspot.com>

Welcome from your chairman

THIS IS the time of year when we all grit our teeth under the stiff upper lip (lovely mixed metaphors) and pretend that November is merely another month, not a cruel introduction to dark nights, wet days and cold feet.

I can't understand why we don't keep Summer Time – there was an experiment some years ago and most English people wanted to retain it. OK, the mornings were darker, but the afternoons, when most people have free time, were far more enjoyable. I believe that it was pressure from some other place that *scotched* the whole scheme. Nudge, nudge, wink, wink.

Thomas Hood took the most pessimistic view in his poem 'November':

*No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member –
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds,
November*

Now, if he had had a local branch of U3A, he would not have felt like that! The great thing about U3A is the range of interest groups and the diversity of ideas and members that should keep the blues away at any time of the year.

The Autumn meeting of Group Leaders took place on Friday 4th November at the Rushley. Glenis and I would like to thank those Leaders who came to a lively meeting. The Minutes are on our website in the Local History page (*ask David Ling or myself if you can't find it*) and Max has written a full report on page 9, but I'd like to make a few personal comments.

The enthusiasm of the Group Leaders bodes well for the future – they lead the present groups well.

There are many groups to be involved in, but we still have to sort out a number of problems – groups that are 'closed' because space restricts numbers; groups that seem to have run their course with the original members in them; groups where the leaders want to 'retire' and there is no successor, and groups that could be started, but need someone to activate them.

I'll return to these points during the year, but I'd welcome the views of members – just contact me by e-mail (click on my name in the Committee section of the website).

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Speakers Corner

EACH YEAR, Terry Whitehead takes us off to Thoresby Hall for a bit of luxurious indulgence. Last year, I happened to pop into the Gallery in the Stable Yard where I met Denise Hallam, who happens to be both an artist and an historian.

Together with Christine Hallam, she has prepared a talk on the Pierreponts of Thoresby Hall, especially the 20th Century Countess Manvers who was a well-regarded artist in her time.

After this talk, we will admire the building even more, and, perhaps, will seek out her paintings.

Mike Allen

Dates for your diary *(Check the website for more information and updates.)*

Mon. 5th Dec: CHRISTMAS LUNCH. Oakham Suite ([NB Change of date.](#)). Details from Norma Shillinglaw (466934)

Sat. 7th Jan 2012: NEW YEAR SOCIAL at the St John's Centre, Mansfield. 7.00. £3. See page 3

Sat. 25th Feb: ANNUAL FUN QUIZ NIGHT at Queen Elizabeth's School. Details from Pauline Boucher (644798)

Holiday Updates

Thursford Christmas Spectacular – 7th to 9th December

48 passengers leave Mansfield, near 'Iceland,' for Norwich at 10am – please be sure to be there at least 10 minutes early to allow time for the driver to load your cases.

Rhine Cruise to see Floriade and Keukenhof – 10th to 14th April 2012

I need only one couple now to fill the last available cabin. Ask me for an itinerary if you haven't seen it on-line. All deposits of £50 payable to Sherwood U3A to be paid in today please (+£19 if you want the company's insurance), with the completed detached part of your 'Just for Groups' document so that I can send them in before 1st December! Balances due in February.

Cotswold Gardens Holiday – 6th to 10th July 2012

Please bring in your deposits of £20 in January please – cheques payable to 'Mansfield & District U3A'. Although all places have been taken, the waiting list is still open.

Croatia by air to the Istrian Peninsula – 29th September to 7th October 2012 (NB: New Dates)

After discussion with the 33 members now wishing to go to Croatia, I can now confirm that we will be flying from Manchester to Pula instead of Birmingham to Trieste, to benefit from several advantages. All transfers will still be included, although the final price to be announced in January will be only a fraction over the original price of £699. Please note the following points:-

1. If we reach 42 passengers we will be allocated two free places, which, shared amongst us will bring down the final balance!
2. I will need a deposit of £50 in January (payable to Mansfield U3A) to secure our places on the aircraft. Prices may increase the longer we wait!
3. Please collect a 'Just for Groups' document to fill in your insurance details & return with your deposit. (Remember to add £46 if you want the company's insurance.)
4. To avoid mistakes when I apply for airline tickets, please give me a copy of your passport by the January meeting. I will return it at Manchester airport before we travel.

If you think you might be interested in this holiday, ask me for an itinerary of the superb excursions included in the price or check it on-line.

Please keep this copy of the newsletter as I can't repeat the messages/requests every month!

Margaret Burlinson (01623 632632538, email: marburl@lineone.net)

Updates and more details about these holidays are available on the website ...

January Social

THE NEW YEAR social evening on January 7th at St John's Centre will have a Scottish theme this year so search out your kilt, trews, sash or whatever and arrive in style at 7pm.

Please make an effort to support this event where you will be able to enjoy meeting fellow members, both new and longstanding, in a relaxed, social setting.

In an effort to make everyone feel welcome and part of Mansfield U3A, you will be given a further ticket on arrival with a table number (couples will be given a joint ticket). Food will be a faith supper with everyone bringing a small snack to share. Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

We hope in this way every one will have a chance to make new friends and members coming on their own or for the first time will find Mansfield U3A welcoming, with everyone enjoying themselves.

Tickets £3 will be on sale today, at the Christmas Lunch or from me or Rita Turner. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sylvia Slack

Recent Events

Shufflers Lunch – 28 October 2011

SYLVIA and I have shared many jokes and ideas during our 12 years of Mansfield U3A membership, particularly in the very early days of the first walking group. (The Prom Ball that we held in April this year was one of them.)

So what could we plan to do when our walks with the Hikers, Walkers and Strollers became just happy memories of activities our bodies said we could no longer enjoy? Could we just shuffle?

Just like the other groups we would have our own monthly meeting at a set time. We would nominate a certain car park and having driven there, or being driven, we would get out of the car, shuffle around it clockwise and then get back in and head off somewhere suitable for coffee.

This would have many advantages – not climbing over stiles, getting wet, avoiding bulls, having muddy boots to clean, etc.

So as Sylvia progresses well through a long convalescence after her awful fall on the Loire Valley holiday we thought it might be a good time to have an inaugural meeting for the Shufflers Group.

This took the form of a lunch at the Carnarvon Arms at Teversal. Here 23 members swapped stories to their hearts' content. (Other events are in the pipeline so watch this space.)

I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating Sylvia and Colin for the way they have dealt with the events of this summer and wish them both well.

Rita Turner – Joint Shufflers Group leader



There are more photos on the website ...

Groups News

New Group Leaders

WE'RE delighted to welcome several new group leaders and I know they all have plans to help their members make the new U3A year the best ever:

- Avril McGee has stepped into Freda Cooper's shoes at the Gardening group;
- Max Clarke is now leading the Family History group in place of Pat Blackwell;
- Doreen Storer is taking Chat and Stitch forward into 2012 instead of Marion Owens, and;
- Bob and Sue Longden are the first leaders of the new Local History group that was recently launched with enthusiasm by Carole Justice and Glenis Carr.

I'm sure everyone will wish them well and will want to join me in thanking their predecessors for all their hard work and, personally, for all their contributions to the newsletter and the website.

David Ling

Groups news continues on page 9 ...

Key to Meetings details:

THIS TABLE SHOWS THE DAY of the month, time and frequency using the first two letters of the day, followed by numbers 1 - 5 to represent the week number. The final letter M (or F or W) indicates that the group meets monthly, fortnightly or weekly.

So “**Tu2. 2.30 M**” would mean a group meeting on the **2nd Tuesday** at **2.30 pm** monthly.

The main Mansfield and District U3A meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month (except for August and December) at the Oakham Suite, Nottingham Road, Mansfield from 10 am - 12.30 pm.

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Art Appreciation	Mo1, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Baptist Church, Rosemary St.	Pauline Boucher 01623 644798
Next Meetings: 5th December – Christmas Poetry Soirée, 6.30 at Pauline's; 2nd January – Rugs & Jugs.			
Beginners' Bridge (With Ashfield U3A)	Mo, various dates, 6.30 - 9.00	Enviro Centre, Derby Rd College, Mansfield	Maxine Rose / Edith Senior 01623 654022
Next Meetings: 14th & 28th November; 12th December (Also Acol sessions at the Mechanics Institute – Th, 10 - 12.30 W)			
Chat and Stitch	Mo3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	St John's Centre, Mansfield	Doreen Storer 01623 407731
Next Meeting: 21st November			
Current Affairs *	Tu2, 2.00 M	Oakwood Suite, Annexe Nottingham Rd.	Norma Shillinglaw 01623 466934
Next Meeting: 8th November. No meeting in December			
Digital World	Fri2&4, 2.00 M	Stanton Hill Baptist Church, Skegby	David Ling 01623 822994
Next Meetings: Nov. 11th & 25th. No meeting in December. Jan. 13th & 27th Topics: 'Sunssets' & 'Fireworks' – by Nov.20th; 'Christmas' & 'Winter' – by Jan. 6th			
English Country Dancing *	Sa, 2.00 Various	South Forest Leisure Centre	Jean Kirk 01623 480207
Next Meeting: 19th November. No meeting in December			

All members are invited to contact the relevant Group Leader if they would like to participate in any interest group or attend an event. **NB: * indicates a waiting list.**

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Family History	Tu4, 10.00 M	St John's Centre, Mansfield	Max Clarke 01623 621744
Next Meeting: 22nd November – Food & Sweets. No meeting in December			
Film Studies *	We1, 1.30 M	Joy's home	Joy Crowe 01623 645400
Next Meeting: 5th December.			
Garden Visits	During the Summer	Various	Marion Thornton 01623 651528
Next Visits: TBA			
Gardening	Tu1, 10.00 M	St Peter's Centre, Mansfield	Avril McGee 01623 452688
Next Meeting: 6th March – Subject TBA. (No meetings in the Winter.)			
Holidays (Home & Abroad)	Various	TBA	Margaret Burlinson 01623 632538
Next holidays: 7th - 9th December – <i>Thursford Spectacular</i> ; 23rd - 27th January 2012 – <i>Thoresby</i> (See Terry Whitehead); 10th - 14th April 2012 – <i>Rhine Cruise</i>			
Introduction to Internet use	Various	Stanton Hill Baptist Church	Terry Whitehead 01623 626991
Next Meeting: Contact Terry			
Local History (New group)	Fri3, 10 M	The Rushley Inn Nottingham Rd	Bob & Sue Longden 01623 486903
Next Meetings: Fri 18th November – Discussion re group programme for 2012.			
Luncheon Club	Th after 3rd Tu, 12.30 M	Various	David Ling 01623 822994
Next Meetings: Nov. 17th – Barker's, Clumber Park. Christmas special: December 15th – Fine dining at Launay's (£16 for 2 courses.)			
<u>Music Groups</u>			
Classical Music 1 *	Th2, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Members' homes	Alan & Marlene Radford 01623 427934
Next Meetings: 10th Nov. – The String Quartet with Peter; 8th December – Your favourite music at St John's; 12th January – Spanish Composers.			

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Classical Music 2	Mo4, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Members' homes	Peter Hart 01623 620940
Next Meetings: November 28th – Opera at Mary's.			
Music 2 *	Mo4, 2.00 - 4.30 M	Members' homes	Eric Prescott 01623 631160
Next Meetings: 28th November. (Ring Eric for details of venue)			
Popular Music Appreciation	Tu4, 2.00 - 4.00 M	St John's School, Mansfield	Peter Haynes 01623 610886 *
Next Meetings: 28th November – Christmas Fuddle. <i>NB: Subs now due.</i> * New Next Concert Visit: TBA			
Pudding Club *	Tu1, 4.00 M	Members' homes	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
Next Meeting: No meeting in December or January			
Reading 1 *	Th3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Peter Dawson's home	Peter Dawson 01623 882191
Next Meetings: 17th November.			
Reading 2	Tu3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Ravenshead Library	Joan Hufton 01623 511713
Next Meetings: 15th November			
Science & Technical	Tu1, 1.30 - 3.30 M	Stanton Hill Baptist Church, Skegby	Ian Boucher 01623 644798
Next Meetings: No meeting in December. 3rd Jan – Development of the electric motor. Next visit: 5th June 2012 – Loughborough Bell Foundry			
Scrabble	Mo2, 2.00 - 4 .00 M	Brenda Thurkettle's home	Brenda Thurkettle 01623 628136
Next Meetings: 12th December			
Singing for Fun	Th2&4, 6.30 - 8.00 F	Brunts School, Mansfield	June Fell 01623 623547
Next Meetings: 1st December Next Performance: 4th Dec – St. Lawrence's Church, 4pm, £5 (See page 10)			
Tai Chi	Mo, 9.30 - 10.30 W	Temp Venue The Rushley Inn (for 8 weeks)	Cliff Laycock 01623 481985
Next Meetings: 21st & 28th; December 5th & 12th			

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Theatre Visits	Various	Various	Mike Allen 01623 653345
Next visit: 30th November – Oddsocks 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' at Thoresby			
<u>Walking Groups</u>			
Hikers <i>(all-day, 6 - 8 miles)</i>	Th1 & Mo3, 9.30 F	Tesco car park, off Oak Tree Lane	Peter Thurkettle 01623 628136
Next Meetings: 21st November – Birchen Edge/Chatsworth; 1st December – Markeaton/Mackworth; 19th December – Ashover.			
Strollers <i>(a leisurely 2 miles)</i>	We2, 10.30 M	Various	Barbara Massey / Marion Thornton 01623 628357 / 01623 651528
Next Meetings: No walk in December			
Walkers <i>(an easy 4 - 5 miles)</i>	We4, 10.30 M	Various	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
Next Meetings: 23rd Nov. – Sculpture Trail. (May change)			
Whist	Various Sa, 7.30 M	Chatsworth Drive, Mansfield	Edith Senior 01623 654022
Next Meetings: November 26th; December 17th			
Wine Appreciation 2*	We3, 7.30 M	Members' homes	Mike Allen 01623 653345
Next Meetings: Nov.16th – Chardonnay with George & Mavis; Dec. 14th – Christmas Party			
Wine Appreciation 3*	Tu4, 7.30 M	Members' homes	Graham Allin 01623 473662
Next Meetings: Nov. 22nd – Sherry with Jill; Dec. 17th – Christmas celebration with Eileen & Graham.			

BOOK TABLE REPORT

THE TAKE for October was £47.50. This brings the total amount this year (January to October) to £433.42 – all of which would otherwise have had to come from higher subscriptions. (With my next report I shall put the annual amounts for 2010 and 2011.)

If you are reading this while people are talking at the front, why not use the interval to get your books for reading over the Christmas holiday. Remember there will be no book stall in December and the long winter nights are with us now.

Lilian Whitehead.

Gardening

THE NOVEMBER meeting marked the end of our gardening year and we were delighted to welcome Dr Andrew Ward, whose long-established nursery at Norwell is full of interesting and unusual plants. His talk was on the subject of 'Fabulous Foliage' and it was apt that it was given so close to November 5th as the colourful display, of mainly herbaceous plants, was just as exciting to keen gardeners as any fireworks display.

We were enthused by plants new to us; their habit, hardiness and how to place them and will think through some of these ideas for next year in the short winter days ahead.

The meeting also saw Freda Cooper step down as leader. Many of our group will remember that Jean Hedges mooted the idea of a gardening group and was delighted to have such a huge response – and when Freda offered to lead the group for the first year.

Now, after four successful years when the membership has not faltered, she is handing over leadership to Avril McGee with our thanks for all her efforts, aided by her organising committee of Margaret Davies, Marion Walker, Colin Slack and Avril. They brought us diverse and absorbing yearly programmes and have manned the monthly, pristine and well-stocked plant stall. The raffle and any other job that needed doing would not have happened either without their willing pairs of hands or assistance from Brenda Thurkettle and Pat Gunter.



It would be remiss of me not to mention the backbone of our meetings too: the tea and coffee makers, Janet Whitlam and Karen Troop.

The end of another year but we look forward, as always, to the new Spring season with anticipation.
Jackie Ling

Local History

THIS NEW group's second meeting was held at the Rushley Inn on Friday the 21st October, and was well attended by 28 members.

The group is still "finding its feet", and at the inaugural meeting it was decided that a few of the members would each speak for a few minutes on an appropriate subject.

Jean Dalton started off by opening a large multi-coloured umbrella with different headings on each of the panels depicting various local and historical routes the group could follow. A novel and well-presented idea! Good work Jean!

Carol Justice then spoke about the Mansfield Rock Houses on Rock Hill. They used to be on both sides of the road, but when the road was widened soon after the war, almost all traces of them were obliterated. Bob Longden was able to show us some interesting old photographs on his laptop.

Ray Reader then gave us an interesting account of the history of the National Health Service, since its birth in the days of austerity after the war until the present day. He paid particular attention to local aspects.



Max Clarke followed, his topic being St. Peter's Church. It didn't take long before he was talking about the bells, and he then strayed to Pleasley Hill, which used to be in St. Peter's parish.

The local land owner, who paid for St. Chad's church, had it built on the left bank of the River Meden. This happened to be in the diocese of Lichfield and the archdiocese of Canterbury. After a difference of opinion with the vicar, he had it taken down and rebuilt on the opposite bank, this time in the diocese of Lincoln and the archdiocese of York !

Then came Marjorie Smith, who gave an interesting talk on Queen Elizabeth's school. This school dates back to the time of the first Queen Elizabeth, and after many changes, it became the girl's school on Woodhouse Road, and the boy's school on Chesterfield Road. Soon after becoming comprehensive, both schools were amalgamated at the Chesterfield Road site. Many artifacts were moved from the girl's school, and those of us who went to the Summer Picnic, or the more recent Race Night will have seen them.

John Hufton then spoke about Stanton Hill. When the Stanton Iron and Coal Company sank their pit, the village that grew up around it was called, naturally, Stanton Hill. Although close to Sutton, it had its own High Street of shops, and was in many ways self-contained. It even had its own co-operative society, which always paid a better dividend than the much bigger Mansfield Co-op. The closure of the three local pits has dealt it a severe blow, although there has recently been some new housing development.

After the coffee break, Sue Robb of Sherwood U3A told us of the Sherwood Group, and the direction they had taken. This included many visits – as a new group, that was something else for us to think about.

Max Clarke

Chat and Stitch

AT A RECENT meeting of our group, some of the members who had been knitting baby jumpers gathered them together to be sent off to Africa. Newborn babies, many suffering from AIDS, are being called 'Fish and Chip' babies because many are sent home from hospital wrapped in newspaper for warmth.

When the group heard about this our needles started clicking and many jumpers were produced and are still being produced. If you would like to help us by knitting a jumper just ask me or one of the group and we will supply you with a pattern.

Pat Blackwell



Luncheon Club

OUR NEXT lunch on November 17th, will be at the new **Barker's Restaurant in Clumber Park**, where Fred and Pam Brown will be preparing us for the festive season in fine-dining style.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Today is the last day to reserve your place for the highlight of our gastronomic year – *Joyeux Noel*, or Happy Christmas in the French style, at Launay's in Edwinstowe – on Thursday December 15th. There'll be four fine-dining courses to choose from for those with good appetites and exploratory tastes with costs from just £16 for two. A few places are still available! (£10 deposit).

David Ling

Singing for Fun

WE'RE JOINING-UP with Bellissima Ladies Choir again on Sunday 4th December for a Christmas concert at St. Lawrence's Church (Junction of Peck's Hill & Skerry Hill) starting at 4pm so please come along to support us if you can. Tickets £5 (inc mulled wine or juice) from Suzy or myself.

June Fell

Digital World

OUR 2011 meeting programme will end on 25th November when members will show their successes, or otherwise, photographing 'fireworks'. I'm sure some snaps from point-and-shoot compacts will out-shine some from more-costly equipment. As usual!

You'll all have a chance to judge for yourself at the January meeting as we'll be participating in the Members' Day programme for the first time and showing, anonymously (!), some members' photos in the hope that you'll want to come along to discuss your successes and failures next year.

We were delighted to welcome three new members at our last meeting and hope they'll all participate regularly, although I'm not sure Nikon DSLR-user Gordon Howlett will make much use of the toy water-proof camera he won in our raffle!

Next year's programme will start on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in January with a return to basics to help inexperienced members get to grips with the settings on their cameras. We'll also discuss how to use home computers, or one of the 10 we have available at Stanton Hill, to store and crop photos and share them with friends and family.

David

Welcome from your chairman ... *continued from page 2*

If you want to start a group, have a chat to Glenis Carr, our Vice-Chair and Groups Co-ordinator. She is full of energy and will help you, and there are funds to set any group up. But don't wait for someone else to do it – have a go yourself!

In order to jog minds, there will be sheets of paper set out at the monthly meeting, some waiting for your choice of group and some with suggested groups on them. Once six members have put their names down on a sheet, we will endeavour to get the group going. We'll even lead the group for a couple of meetings – after that, it will be up to the members.

One of the topics covered was Publicity – we do need to make our name known to the community, although there can be problems getting our activities into the papers and on the radio. If anyone has ideas or contacts, please tell a member of the Committee.

I went to the meeting of the Local History group on October 21st and was impressed by the range of knowledge of our members. There will be many aspects to become involved in – I'd quite like to find out about local surnames. Has anyone any knowledge of those?

Thanks have to go to Glenis Carr for her enthusiasm in starting the Group, to the founding members (all 40 of them) and to Bob & Sue Longden who will co-ordinate it.

Finally, the **Jubilee Jamboree!** Our own Rita Turner, who is chair of the North Notts Neighbourhood Group, has put forward the idea of a celebration by the local U3As next year – we hope on June 12th. The Committee and the Group Leaders have backed the idea with enthusiasm, but we need all of you to get it to work. We'll talk about the idea at the meeting, and come back to it every month, but let's have you giving us ideas.

David suggested Mansfield could develop the idea of a Village Summer Fête with inter-U3A competitions for cakes, jams and fruit and veg – a photography competition, perhaps? How about a Hoop-La stall with our cakes & jams as prizes? Or a coconut shy? Welly-whanging?

We've eight months to get ourselves geared up!

Mike Allen

Walkers: Read Carefully.

MARGARET Burlinson organised a holiday this summer in the Isle of Man.

We did not join the trip; we were going to stay for 10 days at the end of June anyway. We have stayed there many times and normally fly and pick up a car at the Airport to get around in. The car radio is always tuned to Manx Radio and while we were there we heard of the Parish Walk.

The course covers each of the parishes in the Isle of Man along a course of 85 miles. This year the race started on Saturday 25th June and the winner clocked a time of 15 hours, 1 minute and 48 seconds.

The commentator actually told the studio presenter '*some people drop out after about 50 miles*' and there was scorn in his voice when he said it. Apparently if you are still walking after 24 hours you should give up, the stewards go home so you will not be counted. And the rules state you cannot use walking poles (or immediate disqualification).

I can find no record of any U3A team ever entering, let alone winning. Can Mansfield rise to the challenge? Perhaps with a bit of encouragement from the new Chairman?

But not me.

Terry Whitehead.

Disclaimer

THE VIEWS expressed here are those of the contributors, only, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the committee of Mansfield U3A or the Third Age Trust. Nor can any responsibility be accepted for errors that may occur.

Next Issue

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS for the January issue by email to mansfieldu3a@aol.com, or in typescript to the editor, as soon as you can and by 1st January at the latest. Thanks!

Editor: David Ling (01623 822994)

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